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Festival memories

Valley residents look back fondly

By Patricia Henley
SPECIAL TO SONOMA VALLEY MAGAZINE

The Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival evokes special memories for longtime Sonoma Valley residents, from pulling a sawhorse-and-cardboard burro in the children's parade to dancing all night in dashing costumes.

Mary Ann Sebastiani Cuneo remembers early festivals as a chance for young girls to dress up and join the children's parade.

"Claudia Clerici and I used to be partners in our cow-girl outfits. That was always a big deal," Cuneo said. "The festival would stay open until 11 at night, and they'd have little lanterns along the walk. ... It was beautiful."

The festival has grown and changed over the years (see *Vintage History*, page 3).

There's been a wide range of celebrity participants, from World War II Air Force General H.H. (Hap) Arnold at the first festival revival in 1947, to San Francisco columnist Herb Caen, who attended to great fanfare in 1989. Festival displays have included everything from local arts and crafts to a 1976 exhibit of artwork by internationally-known sculptor Beniamino Bufano.

Many traditions continue, such as the blessing of the grapes and the re-enactment of the 1863 wedding of General Vallejo's daughters and Count Haraszthy's sons. Other festival events have fallen by the wayside — the Saturday children's parade and the elaborate "Mission Pageant" are just memories now.

All those changes, all those visitors, are compressed into the recollections of local residents, for whom the annual festivals are a pageant stretching over the years.

Ken McTaggart, 58, remembers playing an Indian for the blessing of the grapes when he was just 9 or 10. That was the first in a long line of festival roles for him, both performing and working behind the scenes.

"It was something we looked forward to as kids," McTaggart said. "Everybody got together. You were either an actor or set it up or were the audience. Everyone was involved, and everybody seemed to have a good time."

Rose Scarafoni Millerick remembers dressing up and posing for "Pictures of the Past." In the 1950s and 1960s, Valley resident Gladys Dodge wrote, narrated and coordinated the cast and costumes for this annual recreation of historical pictures. Dodge would sit to one side of a great, gilded frame, and read a story aloud on stage to her "grandchildren" while the cast posed behind her.

"We enjoyed getting all dressed up in the costumes," Millerick said. "We'd go to Gladys' house and she'd have all the clothes here, there and everywhere, and she'd put together an outfit for you. She thoroughly enjoyed doing it."

The costumes were also used for other pageants, such as the story of the Mission and the Vallejo-Haraszthy wedding.

For Millerick and others, festival memories are like

See *Memories*, page 7



MANY VALLEY RESIDENTS hold fond memories of donning gorgeous costumes during past Vintage Festivals, such as these worn by, from left, Mary Ann Sebastiani (now Cuneo), Rose Millerick and Karen More during a 1950s celebration.

Photo courtesy Rose Millerick



MIGUEL SANTOYO has tended the grapes at the Sonoma Community Center for four years. This is the first year he hopes to crush the merlot grapes for bottling.

Robbi Pengelly/Sonoma Valley Magazine

Growing it themselves

Home vintners a growing breed among Sonoma Valley winemakers

By Lee Simmons
SPECIAL TO SONOMA VALLEY MAGAZINE

Claude Berthoud's property is a quiet hideaway from the rest of busy Sonoma. The sight of bustling tourists and traffic congestion is replaced by seven acres of silent vineyards surrounding his white country home. It is a scene that could easily pass for the Italian countryside, and a reflection of what Sonoma used to be.

Berthoud has lived and made wine at his Sonoma home for 30 years. With a grape press from Prohibition and casks from the Old World, he works year-round in search of the perfect tasting wine. He is one of a growing number of home vintners doing it for themselves in the Valley.

In fact, about 20 percent of all winemakers in Sonoma Valley are now home vintners, ranging from weekend warriors who tend to grapes in backyards, to growers like Berthoud, who hopes to soon begin selling his wine locally.

"It's nice to be small because you control everything," Berthoud said.

Berthoud's son, Michael, is a professional vintner at Arrowood Winery. Both plan to begin selling his home wine on a small scale to local vendors and residents. Under the clever name of Bear 2 Vineyards (A 1955 picture Claude took of a mother and baby bear appears on the label), they only await county approval to start their business. There will be no tasting room, no lavish vineyard parties — just a good bottle of wine.

"I love to drink wine to start with," Berthoud confessed. "I've done it nearly all my life."

Hailing originally from Switzerland, Berthoud lived and worked in San Francisco for 15 years in the restaurant business. He made the short trip north three decades ago to pursue his dream of growing grapes and making his own wine. Today, like many home vintners, he has no reason to expand into a full-fledged wine-making operation, but would rather fall back on the older traditions, preferring to do most of the work himself. He can't say how many hours he spends on his grapes every week because he enjoys the process too much to care.

The wine-making ritual begins as it always does by tending to his vines, some of which are 80 years old. For several months, he prunes and waters as needed before his merlot and syrah grapes begin popping up around May. Depending on the climate during the summer months, Berthoud picks the grapes in the early fall for crush. He then lets the juice ferment for about a week in his century-old barn next to his house.

After the fermentation process, which is different for each type of grape, he pours the juice into casks until he is ready to bottle. The father-and-son operation produces about a ton of grapes every harvest.

After 30 years of work, he's finally ready to share some with his Valley neighbors, and he looks forward to it.

"We started from scratch, made some mistakes and now we're doing fine," he admits with a smile. "We make a very good wine."

Home vintners like Berthoud are a growing breed among Valley vintners, according to Chris Finlay, director of the Sonoma Valley Vintners Association. Representing winemakers from the sloughs south of Schellville to Santa Rosa, the Vintners Association is a major

promoter of the Sonoma Valley wine industry, putting on events like the annual Harvest Wine Auction and conducting monthly workshops for both home vintners and major wineries alike.

As the number of smaller winemakers grows, the association recently released a video on how to be your own winemaker, she said.

Needless to say, wine has pervaded the Valley more than ever, with vines beginning to appear in front yards along the neighborhood streets of Sonoma. One such home operation is located alongside the east parking lot at the Sonoma Community Center. Ken Brown, the center's activities director, said the 80 merlot vines were planted four years ago by Phil Coturri of Enterprise Vineyards as a community service project.

Every two weeks, Miguel Santoyo tends to the vines to make sure they're healthy.

"I like the collaboration ... working with other people," Santoyo said, who continues to take care of the vines at no charge to the Community Center. This year will be the first harvest for the center since the vines have finally matured.

Santoyo said he expects to pick about 400 pounds of grapes — or one case of wine.

Brown has been delighted with how well the grapes turned out and hopes to eventually give the wine to the center's volunteers.

"They are great parking-lot grapes. They reflect the sun well," he said. "It makes great landscaping and it's low maintenance."

The new vines at the center were indeed a visual

See Home, page 6

Home

Continued from page 5

improvement over the weeds that once grew along the parking lot. None of the vines have been vandalized since they were planted, showing that the neighborhood likes what it sees, according to Brown.

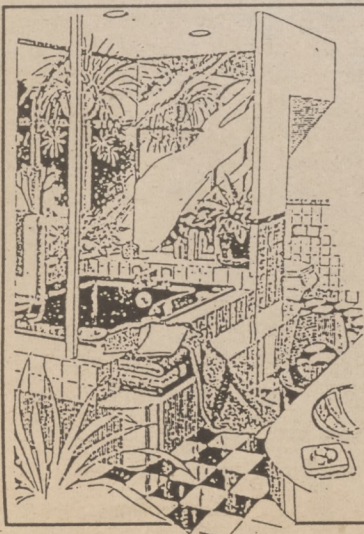
What these small winemakers get out of it differs from person to person. But a sense of history and tradition always seems to creep into their reasoning. Berthoud, for one, is an admirer of the "old timers" — the men and women who pioneered grapegrowing in the Valley.

"You have to inquire. It's history, it's old — you have to talk to a lot of people.

You need a lot of information," Berthoud insisted. "I respect these guys so much, because work is the name of the game."

Berthoud can rightfully say that he is part of the cherished history of Sonoma Valley wines. In 1976, he won a gold medal for a wine he entered in a Santa Rosa wine fair. And he is just as proud of his 1972 zinfandel, the first bottle of wine he ever made in the Valley. In the end, his love for the wine ... his enthusiasm for the whole process, keeps him working at it.

"Winemaking is kind of a dedication. When you love what you do, you don't work."



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Robbi Pengelly/Sonoma Valley Magazine

CLAUDE BERTHOUD sits in front of his many old-world casks at his home winery in Sonoma. He stores his several wine varieties in the casks before bottling.

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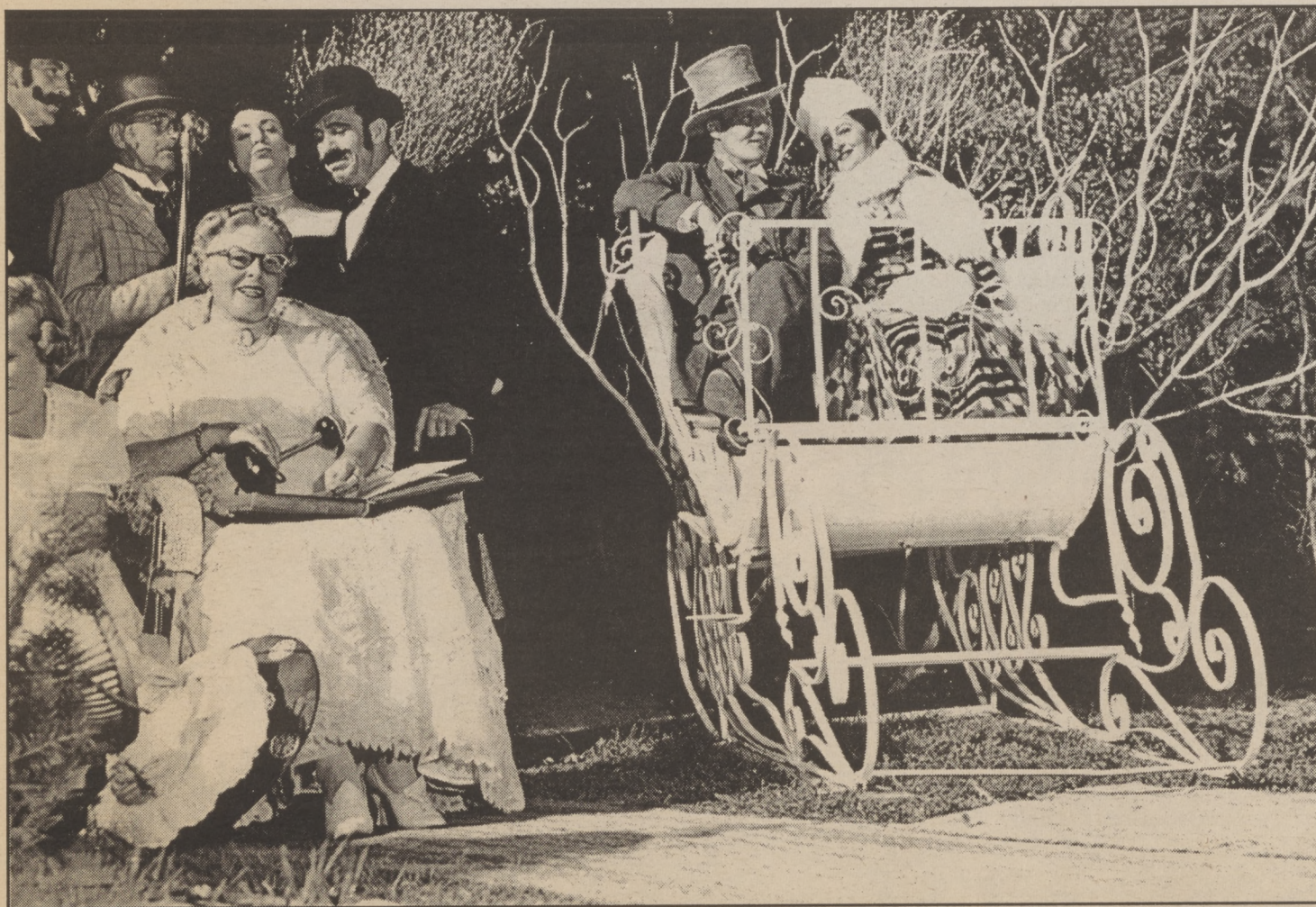
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Memories

Continued from page 4

quick snapshots, capturing happy moments.

Henry Riboni remembers playing accordion at festivals in the late '40s. About 10 years old at the time, he'd set up a little music stand in the Plaza, and play for everyone walking by. In later years, he went in costume with his parents to the festival ball, proudly wearing a frock coat and his grandfather's gold watch and chain.

"People would be roaming around in the evening in costume," he explained. "You'd go into stores around the Plaza and everyone would be in costume."

For Rena Novo, early festivals meant working in the Sons of Italy spaghetti booth. For the first few years, each club member would make a batch of sauce at home, then bring it in and pour them all together. "It would make a really good sauce," Novo said. "Every year it tasted different."

Then the festival got bigger, and the club began cooking the sauce upstairs above the Sebastiani Theatre, later moving to the Moose Lodge kitchen. Festivals ran late into the evening in those years, and club members would dish up spaghetti all weekend long. People would stop by for dinner, and then sit in the Plaza for a good long visit. "We used to

See Memories, page 8

Photo courtesy Rose Millerick
GLADYS DODGE, seated left, wrote, narrated and coordinated the cast and costumes for the festival's "Pictures of the Past" in the '50s and '60s. Riding in the sleigh are Jim McTaggart and Rose Millerick.

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Memories

Continued from page 7

have our best business after 6 o'clock," she said.

Sonoma Fire Chief Mike Cahill, now 44, remembers neighborhood families working together a week ahead of time to create costumes, props and floats for Saturday's children's parade.

One year, Cahill towed his younger brother on a burro created out of a wheeled sawhorse, cardboard and brown towels. Baskets of grapes on the side completed the image.

Another year, the sister of a friend posed on a "balcony" created atop a little red wagon, while Cahill and his friends strummed guitars to serenade her.

"My mom would always try to outdo last year's parade," Cahill said. "Our block won first place something like four years in a row."

Not every minute of the parade was fun, especially lining up ahead of time, Cahill said. "It was always hotter than heck. You'd be standing around all made up, and dripping wet."

See Memories, page 21



Photo courtesy Rose Millerick

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL continues the tradition of re-enacting the Vallejo-Haraszthy weddings, seen here during a 1950s festival with Rose Millerick as the bride.

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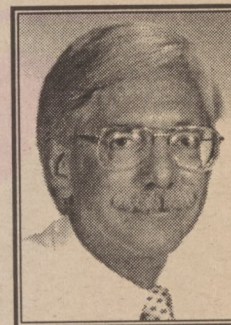


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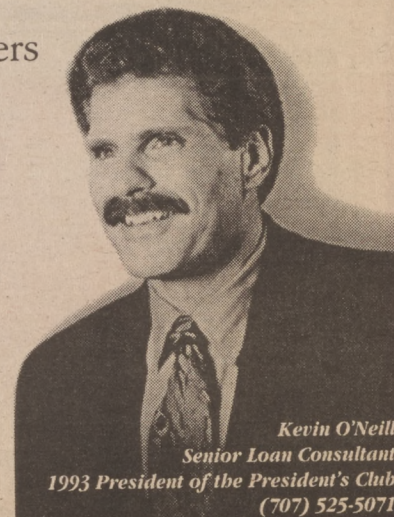
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Memories

Continued from page 8

There were also food and game booths in the Plaza, as there are now, including the hit-a-salami-with-a-potato booth. An outgrowth of traditional Italian games, the booth has salamis hanging from strings. Hit one with a potato, and you win a salami.

"When I was a kid 30 years ago, that was always the most popular booth in the whole park," Cahill said. "You'd see the guys walking down the Plaza with a half-dozen salamis under their arms and say, wow, they must be really good."

Cahill also has adult memories of the festival, from competing in the annual firefighters water fights, which started in the 1970s. An outgrowth of musters, where firefighters practice their basic skills, the water fight pits local fire departments against each other, to see which can use water hoses to push a metal barrel past the other team.

"It involves a lot of team work. Behind all the spray, it's the best team that wins - with a little luck," Cahill said. "It's a kick. It's a real rush to get out there and do that."

Other festival memories are more sedate. Sonoma Hotel owner John Musilli moved to the Valley in the early '70s, and was enthused by the high level of community participation.

"It almost seemed like you had to wait in line to get a part in the pageant, there was so much involvement," Musilli said.

Over the years, the Musilli family had costumed roles in the various historical re-enactments and their children marched in the children's parade. His wife, Dorene, joined the festival board and served as president for two years.

A highlight was when the Patron's wine tasting was held at the Vallejo home on Spain Street, John Musilli said. The elegant setting was perfect for the wine and food tasting, and participants could tour the Vallejo home in small groups.

However, Musilli's favorite memories center on the festival balls, held in the Sonoma Valley Veterans Memorial Building in the early '70s, and then at the Sonoma Mission Inn.

"If you can imagine hundreds of people, most dressed in wonderful costumes, dancing to live music - that was the ball," Musilli said. "I really miss that."

Those images - hundreds dancing in costumes, firefighters battling with water, children parading, wine lovers tasting the fruit of the vine - they are all part of the ongoing tapestry that is the annual Vintage festival, both enshrined in memory and happening again this year.

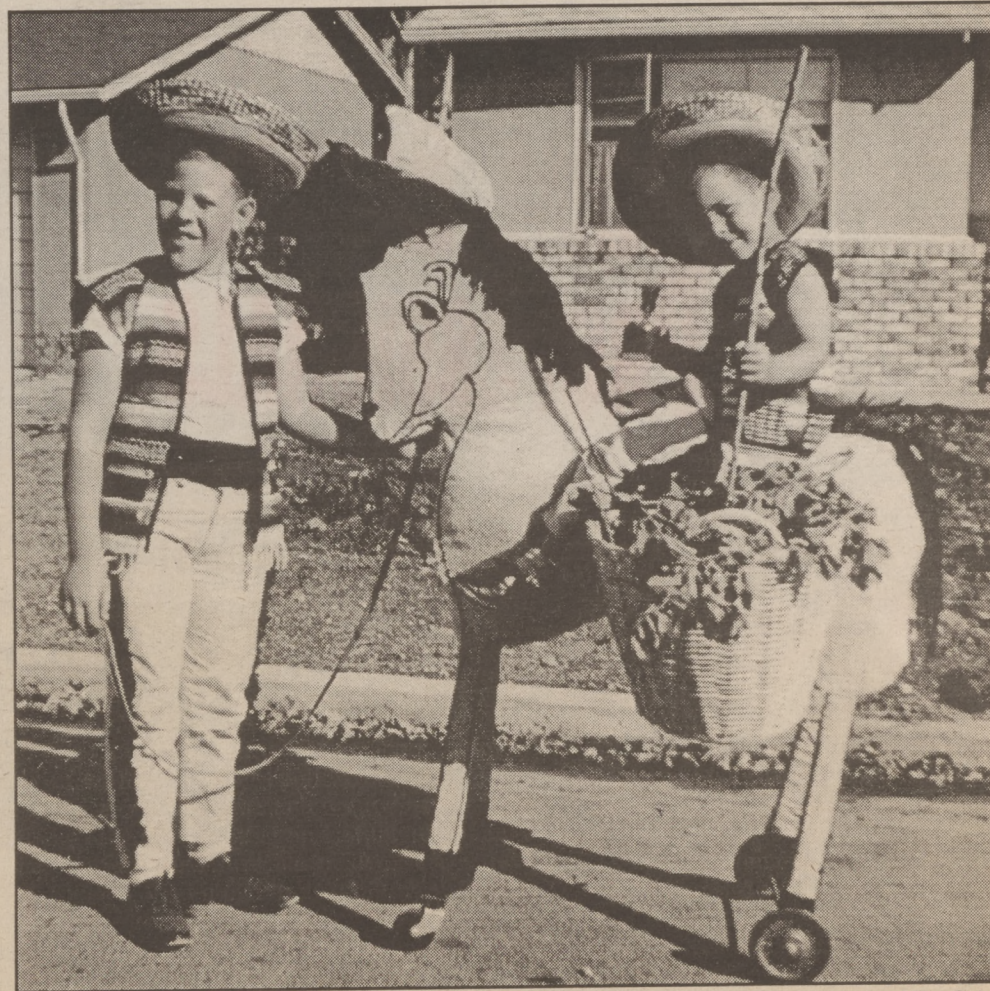


Photo courtesy Mike Cahill

MIKE CAHILL, LEFT, and his brother Kevin get ready to enter their sawhorse-and-cardboard burro in the festival's children's parade in the 1950s.

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Remembering the Bacchus Festival

By Harold Van Coops

SPECIAL TO SONOMA VALLEY MAGAZINE

(Editor's note: Harold Coops wrote this after the Vintage Festival in 1976. Mr. Coops was a longtime resident of Sonoma who died in 1988 at the age of 94. Article courtesy, Depot Museum.)

Now that we have just finished celebrating the Vintage Festival of 1976, I wonder how many are still alive who witnessed the Bacchus Festival of 1898 or 1900.

My cousin, Leland Volquardsen, and I remember some of it, although we were only 4 years old at the time.

The Festival took place in Pansy Valley, below the old Arrowhead slide on the Black Mountain. It wasn't far from where the old Dresel house stood, near the Bundschu home that stands there today.

To get there from Sonoma, the people who drove out by way of Buena Vista forded two small streams. We lived where the Stornetta Dairy is now, so we passed the Thompson place, the Lowell orchards, the Ellis stage stop and dance hall, the Glaister winery and vineyards, the Proletti vineyards and cellar, the Bill's place; and finally through the Rhine Farm, past the Dresel, Winkle and Gundlach-Bundschu places to arrive at Pansy Valley.

The gathering of the Valley people and their surreys, spring wagons, carts and saddle horses was quite a sight.



Photo courtesy Coops Family

THIS PHOTO OF Harold Coops was taken in 1918.

The first chore was to unhitch and feed the horses. They were tied to the wagons and fed in the wagon bed. The saddle horses were tied to the fence. Their snorting, stamping and chomping was a delight for us young fry

to listen to.

The wagon seats were removed from the wagons and served as seats around the picnic fires. Things livened up with a few fiddlers playing at each family group. The singing and dancing and visiting from fire to fire, with a lot of good-natured kidding as we ate our picnic lunches, made it an occasion to remember.

At dusk, kerosene lanterns were lit – they came in several colors. Did someone say babysitters? Heck, no – we were members of the family, and where they went, we children naturally went along. When the moon came over the mountain, and “lebenty-leben zillion” stars came out, it was time for the play.

The play itself was an outgrowth of the German festivals in the “Old Country” – the Rhineland. It was built around the Greek myth of Bacchus, the god of wine.

Otto Dresel, a year older than I, took the part of Bacchus. A great red flare announced the coming of Jupiter, when Bacchus' mother, Semele, was burned to ashes by his immortal radiance.

As we were children, the story was entirely over our heads, so to describe it, I quote from Milton's “Comus.”

“Bacchus that first from out of the purple grape
Crushed the sweet poison of misused wine,
After the Tuscan mariners transformed,
Coasting the Tyrrhene shore as the winds listed
On Circe's island fell; (who knows not Circe,
The daughter of the Sun? Whose charmed cup
Whoever tasted lost his upright shape,
And downward fell into a groveling swine.)”

The road home was interesting in the dark – no lights except moonlight. We departed quietly, one by one, thrilled and happy with our adventure.

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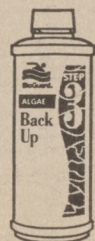
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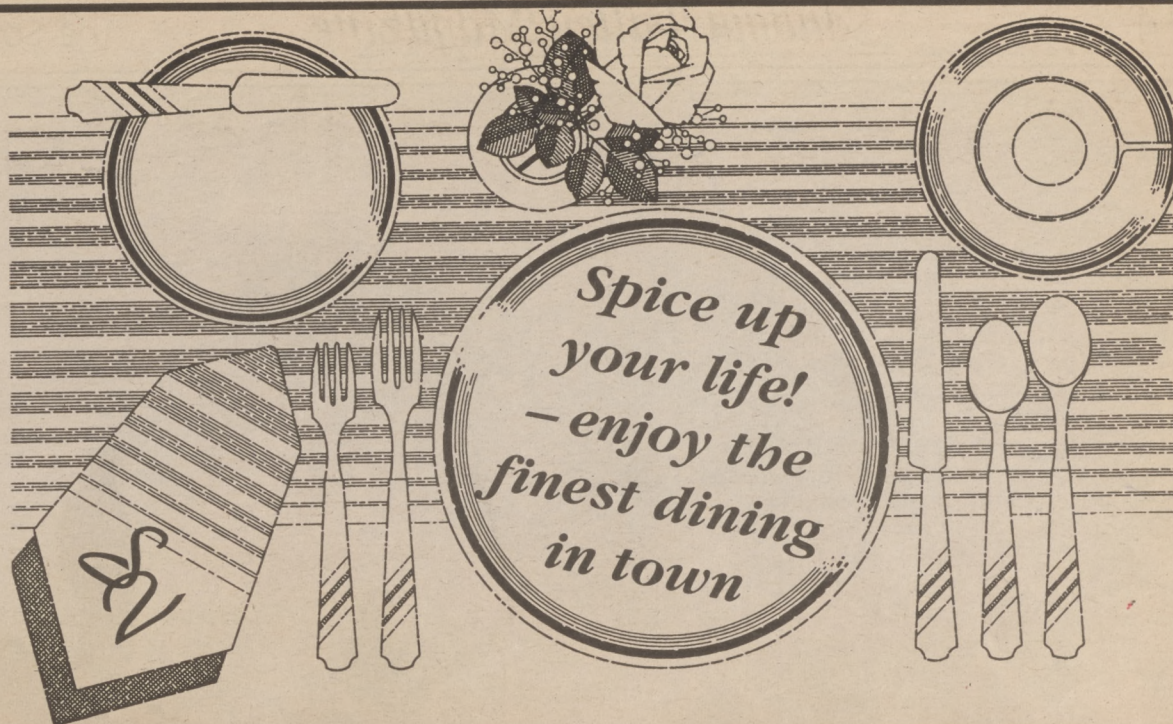
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THE CLIMBERS ARE silhouetted by the sunset on Mt. Elbrus.

Photo courtesy of Fred Ptucha

Climbing for Peace



MARITA TORBICK, of Kenwood, during one of the conditioning climbs.

Photo courtesy of Bob Guglielmino

Valley climbers join Russian and Ukrainian mountain climbers to scale Mt. Elbrus

By Tina Luster
SPECIAL TO SONOMA VALLEY MAGAZINE

It was a simple concept — a bunch of mountain climbers from three countries would get together and climb Europe's tallest peak.

But Sonoma Valley members of Climbers for Peace found there was nothing simple about it.

They discovered that the largest obstacle to scale was interacting with their Russian and Ukrainian counterparts during their recent three-week trip to attempt to reach the summit of Mt. Elbrus.

The 18,510-foot peak is located in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia, near the Black Sea.

"It was a lesson in tolerance, patience and flexibility" said Bob Guglielmino, of Feters Hot Springs, one of the trip coordinators. "You have to be able to let go of your assumptions and accept a completely foreign position."

The group of climbers was feted with banquets and parties that were interspersed with conditioning climbs.

It was evident from the very start that, though the three groups of climbers had similar goals, the cultural differences would make attaining those goals a challenge.

"The first day, the coordinator for the Ukraine team wanted to break one of our fundamental agreements. That, for us, is where the work began," Guglielmino said.

"It was our basic American fabric that made us say, 'We're going up to the room and work this out. No one is leaving until we do.' That started our circles. Everyday we would have discussion circles where we would work out conflicts before they escalated.

"The Russian Minister of Sport and the leader

See Climbing, page 17



Robbi Pengelly/Sonoma Valley Magazine

MATT CLINE SHOWS off the Rhone varietals Cline Cellars grows and bottles.

Rhone Rangers ride in Sonoma Valley

By Bill Lynch

SPECIAL TO SONOMA VALLEY MAGAZINE

They don't wear masks nor ride white horses named Silver, but they are rescuing wine drinkers – from boredom. They call themselves the "Rhone Rangers," but in Sonoma Valley they are better known as Fred and Matt Cline, founder and winemaker, respectively, of Cline Cellars.

Actually, one could call them the "Lone-Rhone Rangers," because they are the only wine producers in the Valley almost entirely committed to Rhone-style wines. But they won't be alone for long.

California Rhones are patterned after those that have been produced in France's Rhone Valley for more than 2,000 years. Well-known Rhone areas include Cotes-du-Rhone, Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Hermitage among others. The most well-known grape varietals include mourvedre, syrah, carignane, grenache, cinsault, marsanne, rousanne and viognier.

Cline Cellars has its roots deep in the sandy soil of Oakley, Calif., which is east of Antioch in Contra Costa County. It was there, in 1982, that Fred Cline purchased his first vineyard, which included some rare 100-year-old mourvedre and zinfandel vines. In 1986, Fred's brother Matt joined Cline Cellars as winemaker after studying winemaking at U.C. Davis. In 1991, the Cline brothers moved their facility to a 350-acre estate in the Carneros region of Sonoma Valley.

Discovering that the mourvedre grapes made an excellent and unique wine – and controlling almost 85 per-

cent of the state's entire crop – they dedicated themselves to becoming Rhone varietal specialists, and at the same time "liberated" the handle "Rhone Ranger" from Santa Cruz vintner Randall Graham, who had earned the title by creating some interest in the wine world with his rabid advocacy for Rhone varietals.

In the years since moving to Sonoma Valley, the Clines have planted, harvested and bottled more Rhone varietals including carignane, rousanne, syrah, marsanne and viognier. They are probably the largest producer of such wines in California and the nation.

They have also used their experience with Rhone wines to blend some interesting mixes of these varietals and offer Cotes D' Oakley "Vin Rouge" and "Vin Blanc" crafted after France's Cotes du Rhones.

What has been the effect of this commitment to Rhone wine making?

"For many years, we made and sold about 20,000 cases of wine each year. In 1996, we bottled more than 90,000 cases and it is all sold," said assistant winemaker Don Reha.

He sees the success of Cline Cellars in terms of the public being interested in trying new wines and the Clines being there to offer them. The Cline wines are selling big on both coasts and in 14 countries, and their efforts have created enough market interest that other wineries are adding Rhone varietals to their list of offerings.

In Sonoma Valley, renowned winemaker Richard Arrowood, has added viognier and syrah to his product mix. "I see Rhone wines becoming more popular. Many

of the varieties will do well here because of our Mediterranean climate," Arrowood said. He said he also plans to experiment with some blends of Rhone varieties.

Joel Peterson, of Ravenswood Winery, says that Rhone-style wines could become as much as 20 to 30 percent of his product mix. For the last several years, he has produced "Icon," a wine that is a blend of syrah, grenache and mourvedre, which he says is patterned after a Chateauneuf-du-Pape.

Kunde Vineyards and Benziger Family Winery are making some viognier, as is Peter Wellington – and Sebastiani Vineyards is producing a mourvedre made from grapes it brings in from the Oakley area.

Doug Davis, of Sebastiani, believes that the Cline's success may be just the beginning of a big expansion in the use of different varietals by winemakers.

"It has been said that Count Agoston Haraszthy brought 300 different varietals back to California ... we know of only about 60, and most wine is concentrated in about 10 ... that's changing," Davis added.

He predicted not only will the Rhone wines continue to grow in popularity but so also will be other varietals including those more closely associated with Italy, hinting at a direction that Sebastiani might be headed in the near future.

In the meantime, wine enthusiasts who have not yet tasted the Rhone varieties may find them at Cline's tasting room, as well as Ravenswood, Arrowood's, Benziger, Wellington and Kunde.

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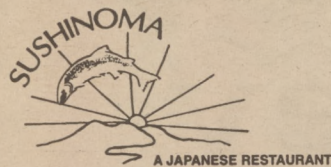
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Photo courtesy of Marita Torbick

MT. ELBRUS IS an 18,510 foot peak in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia, near the Black Sea.

Climbing

Continued from page 14

of the Ukrainian Federation of Alpinists had very different philosophies on how to climb a mountain," he added. "We would hold a circle and one would break off and walk away cursing and blowing off steam. They'd cool down and come back to the circle. The conflicts were always resolved, it always worked."

Marita Torbick, of Kenwood, added, "Even the simple things would cause us to break into a circle. Planning for 35 people just for lunch was a problem. We deal with conflict differently than they do. They were more confrontational. We wanted to illuminate the problem and solve it."

The Americans realized that both ways have their time and place.

"After one particularly rough session where we weren't getting anywhere, one of the Russians broke out the vodka," Guglielmino said. "The issue was resolved by the next day."

"Let's just say, diplomacy has many faces and vodka is one of them," he chuckled.

The two agreed that the trip was not as bleak as it might sound. The cultural differences, though, followed the group up the mountain.

"We Americans were 'gear wienies,'" Guglielmino laughed. "We were decked out in Gortex, had high-altitude stoves. We were all very high tech. The Russians, on the other hand, called it 'touching the mountain.' They had iron-framed, great big rucksacks, huge coats. There was nothing high tech about their gear."

And while the Americans were breaking out the Power Bars for lunch, the Russians were breaking out the sola.

"I attributed our 60 percent casualty rate to sola," Guglielmino chuckled. "Sola is pig fat. That's it, just large cubes of pig fat. They slice it a little larger than baloney and slapped it between heavy rye

bread. They love this stuff. We would offer them our food and they'd refuse saying, 'Alpinists eat sola.'"

And for lunch, the hospitable Russians would bring the Americans their portions of food for the day — cans of sardines and

heavy breads, among more burdensome foods.

The group spent a lot of time on the mountain conditioning themselves to the altitude. And, for the Americans, the huts and facilities for climbers were innova-

tive, to say the least.

"They took large underground gasoline tanks and converted them into huts so hikers and climbers could get out of the weather," Torbick said. "Also, the bath-

See Climbing, page 18



Larry Lee

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THE CLIMBERS AFTER being initiated into the Kingdom of Ukranian Alpinists.

Photo courtesy of Fred Ptucha

Climbing

Continued from page 17

room facilities on the mountain were huts that were on the edge of cliffs. Basically, it was just a hole in the floor. The view through the hole was 70 feet straight down."

The differences seen on the mountain were even more evident when the climbers were off of it. However, the resiliency of human nature had the Americans jumping right in and enjoying themselves in an easy, comfortable way.

"The money exchange was incredible," Torbick said. "It got to the point the Americans were saying to each other, 'Hey, you owe me 5,000 rubles.' Come on guys, it's a dollar."

For Torbick, the scenery and camaraderie were highlights of the trip. She admitted to being startled by the beauty of the mountains.

"We were walking through wild flowers this high," she said, measuring about four feet with her hand. "There were beautiful alpine meadows and raging rivers. On the other side of the mountain range, it was very stark. Historically, this area has been off limits to tourists. It was incredible."

Torbick explained that, though ranked as a level two mountain, Mt. Elbrus was a relatively easy climb.

"Realistically, Mt. Shasta is a much more difficult mountain to climb," she said. "I never unpacked my ice ax or crampons. Mt. Elbrus is ranked a two only because of its height."

A highlight for Torbick was climbing with the Ukrainian Federation of Alpinists, some of the top mountain climbers in the world.

"One of the guys on our trip will direct a K-2 climb soon," she said. "They were rock climbers and trainers. It was great fun working with them. Everywhere we went, one of the people from the federation was with us. It was like we almost all had our own private climbing coaches."

A glaring difference was the Americans' focus and attention to the details of the trip.

"I still don't have a grasp on how things happened," Guglielmino said. "There would be nothing planned for transportation and the Ukraines and Russians would be very unconcerned. I would be questioning them about their plans and how they were going to get to our next destination. They'd shrug and tell me not to worry. The next morning, the buses would be sitting outside. When I'd ask about it they'd say, 'It's the Russian way.'"

What impressed Torbick and Guglielmino is the change going on in that area of Russia. While the economy is still excruciatingly depressed, the spirit of the people is anything but.

"There was a newly formed Rotary Club in Cherkassy, which is part of the sister city program with Santa Rosa," Guglielmino said. "The banquet in which

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See Climbing, page 20



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Climbing

Continued from page 18

they hosted us was their first meeting. They also held a picnic for us. We talked to some of the members and asked them what they plan to do and they had a laundry list of programs – a cure for all of Russia's ills. However, there isn't a strong economy to help the group pay for any of these projects."

The spirit of the American West is alive in Russia. Icons and symbols, such as the Grand Canyon, are used to sell everything from cigarettes to food.

And the youth of the country are in love with everything American. They are

going through a rebellious time that has their parents puzzled.

"It reminded me of the 1950s in America," Guglielmino said. "The kids are discovering new music and turning away from the old. Parents are feeling bewildered, much like those who were raising children when the rock 'n' roll scene hit this country."

The lack of a stable economy, increase of organized crime and an ill-founded banking system have only served to make the Russians more jovial.

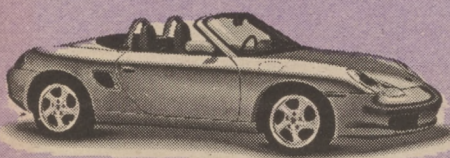
See Climbing, page 21



Photo courtesy of Fred Ptucha

DUANE DEWITT of Santa Rosa, climbing a glacial snowfield at 13,200 feet.

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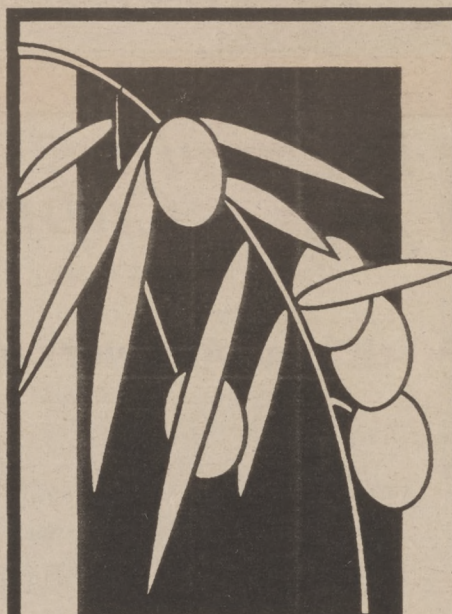
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Climbing

Continued from page 20

"It seems that the more bleak their present circumstance, the more humor the Russians see in it," Guglielmino explained. "I guess you get to a point that all you can do is laugh."

It was the spirit of the people who made the trip more than Guglielmino and Torbick thought it would be. It quickly became less about climbing a mountain and more about forging friendships.

"One of the basic Russian traditions is that mealtime is an important social function," Guglielmino said. "After dinner, we would sit around the table for hours talking to each other. The real hospitality we were shown made the difficulties bearable."

Several climbers, including Torbick and Guglielmino, did not reach the summit of Mt. Elbrus. Because of a variety of ills among climbers, Guglielmino stayed with the ones who couldn't make it.

"I didn't make the final climb," Torbick said. "I got altitude sickness. It was one of the most miserable nights of my life. It wasn't too difficult to let go of the idea of reaching the summit. I guess it wasn't as big a goal as I thought."



MARITA TORBICK and Bob Guglielmino talk about their trek to Ukraine.

Bill Hoban/Sonoma Valley Magazine

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Robbi Pengelly/Sonoma Valley Magazine

Directors

The board of directors for the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival are, clockwise, from top left, Sally Moore, Claudia Morris, Pat Rosser, Carol Sharp, Joel Peterson, Hunt Sharp, Charles Cook, Karen Gutierrez with son Benjamin, Eric Morrison, Bill Boerum, Kim Orellana, Nancy DiBella, Cindy Mancavage, Kelly Johnson and Holly Kyle. In front is Linda Richey.

Gundlach-Bundschu Winery will host Vintage Festival party

The Vintage Festival will return to Gundlach-Bundschu's "Rhine Farm," just east of Sonoma, to celebrate its centennial on Saturday night Sept. 27.

The Valley of the Moon Festival Association and Gundlach-Bundschu Winery have invited the public to "An Eve of Pleasure in the Grecian Style" for a "Re-creation" of the Festival at its historic site.

The original Vintage Festival was staged in October 1897 by members of the San Francisco Bacchus Club including the Gundlach, Bundschu and Dresel families who owned and operated the winery. The 1897 Festival included a play about classical Greek times.

The play was written by the then-principal of Sonoma Valley High School, Benjamin Weed.

The original Greek theme will be carried over to the Saturday night event during this year's Festival weekend.

Guests are invited to come in costume as mythological legends or Greek citizens in togas. Activities will include visiting Gundlach-Bundschu's wine caves and sampling wines directly from the barrels of Gundlach-Bundschu and Ravenswood as well as "fine foods and pageantry." The party is scheduled from 7 to 11 p.m.

Tickets are limited and priced at \$100 a person. Tickets can be obtained by sending a check to the Vintage Festival at P.O. Box 652, Sonoma CA 95476. For more information, call the Festival office at 966-2109.

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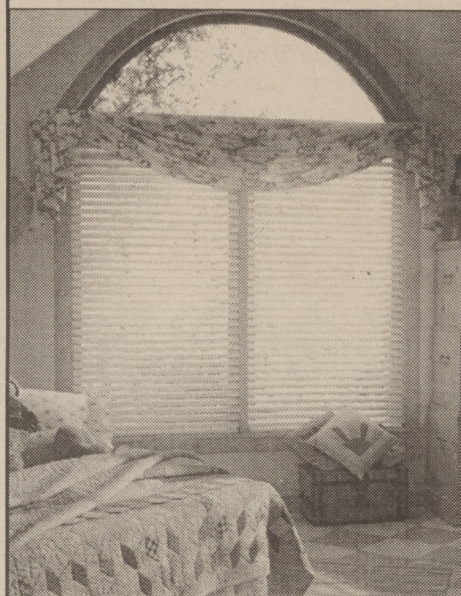
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President's Message



LINDA RICHEY

Welcome to the Centennial celebration of the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival. We have a very exciting and fun-filled weekend in store for all who attend. With fabulous entertainment, the finest wines from the vineyards of Sonoma, and a cornucopia of delicious foods to tempt the palate, the most difficult decision will be what to try next.

This weekend, we not only honor the annual grape harvest in one of the world's most famous wine-growing regions, but also celebrate the colorful history of Sonoma.

The Vintage Festival offers locals and visitors alike a taste of hometown hospitality.

Whether watching our firemen do battle with powerful hoses, witnessing the historical re-enactments, being entertained by puppeteers, cloggers and musicians or supporting the nonprofit

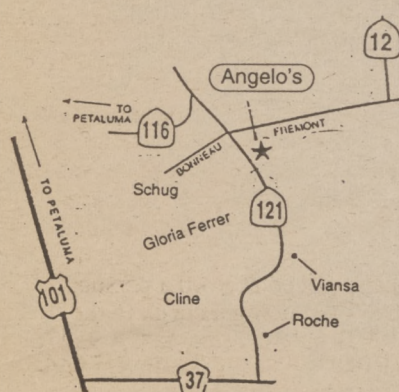
organizations whose booths line the sidewalks, a good time is promised to be had by all.

It is indeed a special event and I feel very privileged to be associated with the many devoted people who diligently labor the year through to provide a great festival. Through their unselfish gestures and the generous support of local businesses and interested individuals, we are able to continue this wonderful tradition.

To those of you planning to attend the festival this weekend, we appreciate your patronage and encourage you to read through this publication thoroughly so that you can be assured to catch all of the exciting activities.

Thank you for joining us and helping to support the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival Association.

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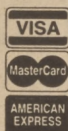
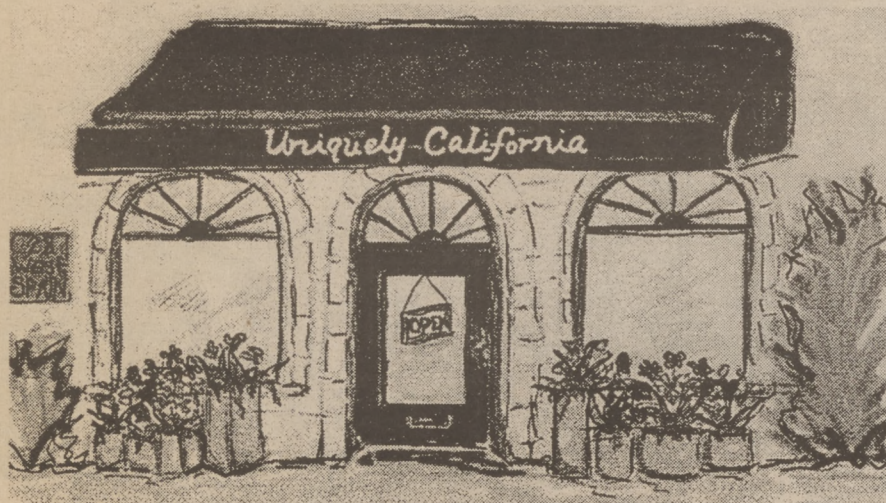
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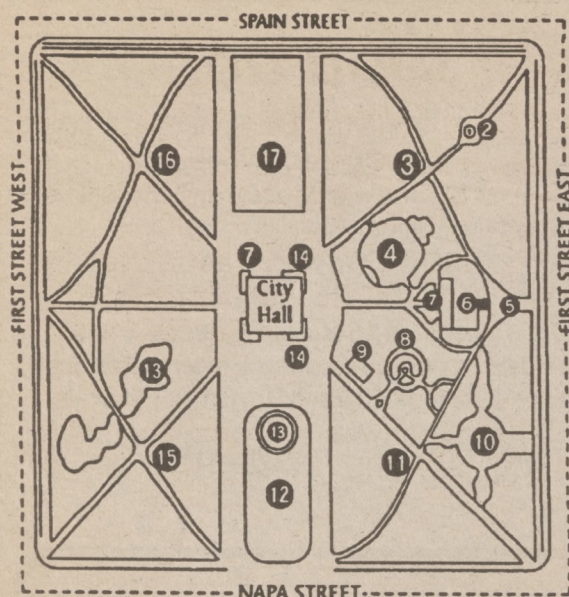
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 8. Rose Garden
 9. Vintage Festival Booth
 10. Fountain
 11. SE Quadrant
 12. S. Lawn Area
 13. Duck Pond
 14. Disabled Parking
 15. SW Quadrant
 16. NW Quadrant
 17. N. Lawn Area



**Firemen's
Waterfight
Saturday at
12:30 p.m. on
Spain Street**

Weekend schedule of events

Friday, September 26

Time	Event	Key
6:30-9 p.m.	Patron's Wine Tasting (Reservations required)	1

Saturday, September 27

Time	Event	Key
10 a.m.	Blessing of the Grapes Festival Invocation	1
10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Art Show and Sale	16
10:30-11:15 a.m.	Ranka's Review (Puppet show)	12
11 a.m.	Wine Tasting on the Plaza	3
11 a.m.	Beard & Mustache Contest	17
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Children's Grape Stomp (Heats 1-3)	4
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Bob Hartman (Hypnotist)	12
12:30 p.m.	Amateur Winemaking (Awards presentation)	4
12:30 p.m.	Firemen's Water Fight (Spain St./North Plaza)	
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Barbary Coast Cloggers	17
12:45-1:15	Ranka's Review (Puppet show)	12
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Sonoma Valley Chorale	4
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Bob Hartman (Hypnotist)	12
2:30-4 p.m.	Children's Grape Stomp (Heats 4-6)	4
3-5 p.m.	Norton Buffalo	17
4:30 p.m.	Children's Grape Stomp (Finals)	4
7-9 p.m.	1897 Vintage Festival Recreation	

(Gundlach-Bundschu Winery - Reservations required)
Strolling Entertainment
Sonoma County Shriners Clowns - Girls Night
Out - A Cappella Quartet - Aaron Jessup - Juggler

**Children's
Grape Stomp
Saturday at
11 a.m., 2:30 and
4:30 p.m. in the
amphitheater**



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Vintage Festival Sat., Sept. 27 & Sun., Sept. 28

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**Blessing
of the
Grapes
Saturday at
10 a.m.
at the
Mission**



Sunday, September 28

Time	Event	Key
8 a.m.	Vintage Run/Walk	
10 a.m.-		
5 p.m.	Art Show and Sale (V.O.M. Art Association)	16
10:30 a.m.-		
12:30 p.m.	Papa Joe & the Bouncers (Music)	17
11 a.m.	Wine Tasting on the Plaza	3
11 a.m.	Bear Flag Revolt (Historic Presentation)	2
11-11:15 a.m.	Sonoma Rockettes	4
11-11:45 a.m.	Ranka's Review (Puppet Show)	12
11:30 a.m.-		
noon	Ballet Folklorico	4
noon	Vallejo-Haraszthy Wedding (Historic Presentation)	1
12:30 p.m.	The Big Parade (Route)	
1:30-2:15 p.m.	Papa Joe & the Bouncers	17
2:30-3 p.m.	Stewart Tartan Pipes & Drums	12
2-3:30 p.m.	Merchant Grape Stomp	4
3-3:45 p.m.	Ranka's Review (Puppet Show)	12
3:15 p.m.	Parade Awards	17
3:30-5 p.m.	U.S. Air Force Jazz Band	17
3:30-4 p.m.	Merchant/Open Grape Stomp (Finals)	4

Strolling Entertainment (Sonoma County Shriners Clowns, Girls Night Out-A Cappella Quartet)

Parking is available in the Grande Parking Lot behind the Barracks on First Street East.

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We also extend our gratitude to the participating wineries and food sponsors for their contributions toward the wine tasting event and to the state parks department and staff for providing the use of the historic Mission and the Sonoma Barracks.

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